

reason. The stubborn, self-defeating unilateralist I have in mind is Ralph Denktash."

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Madam Speaker, despite yesterday's giant setback, the President of the Republic of Cyprus, Tassos Papadopoulos, stressed that the Greek Cypriot side "will continue the efforts for reaching a solution to the Cyprus question both before and after Cyprus joins the EU."

Furthermore, President Papadopoulos pledged one more time to continue the efforts for a Cyprus settlement that would properly serve the interests of both Cyprus communities.

On the other hand, after the peace talks ended yesterday, Turkish-Cypriot leader Denktash continued his obstructionist actions threatening that if Cyprus accedes to the European Union on May 1, 2004, that there will be a disaster. He went on to say that talks would be suspended until Turkey joins the European Union.

Madam Speaker, Turkey's accession to the European Union was seriously undermined yesterday with the failure of a peace agreement. The Turkish government also bears blame for yesterday's developments after giving its full support to Denktash. New Turkish Prime Minister Erdogan said on Monday that it was impossible for Turkey to accept the U.N. plan in its current form.

Both the Turkish government and Denktash refused to listen to the thousands who have taken to the streets over the last couple of months in the occupied section of Cyprus and voiced support for a solution based on the U.N. plan.

The leader of the Republican Turkish Party in Turkey accused both the Turkish government and Denktash of bringing the talks to a deadlock, and he stated, "Mr. Denktash persuaded Turkey as well. Having the support of the powerful circles in Turkey he influenced the decision-making mechanism and foiled them. He used the indecisiveness for not making a serious decision. Not being able to decide, Turkey decided to preserve the status quo."

Madam Speaker, I continue to believe that the Bush administration did not put enough pressure on the Turkish government to force Denktash to negotiate in good faith. Turkey must finally realize that by supporting Denktash's intransigence, it is causing harm to its own long-term interest as a potential full member of the European Union.

After the setback of the U.N. efforts, the Bush administration must redouble its efforts to persuade Turkey and the Turkish-Cypriot leader to work constructively within the U.N. process to achieve a negotiated settlement to end the division of Cyprus.

Madam Speaker, Turkey's 28 year illegal occupation of 37 percent of Cyprus has to come to an end. It is time for all the citizens of Cyprus to be reunited so they may all reap the eco-

nomical rewards available with the nation's accession to the European Union. It is very unfortunate this occurred, but I continue to believe that we can somehow achieve a situation where the Turkish Cypriots will join with the Greek Cypriots in a unified Cyprus that would join the European Union at the time that is scheduled next year. I am still optimistic that can be achieved.

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mrs. BLACKBURN). Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from Virginia (Mr. WOLF) is recognized for 5 minutes.

(Mr. WOLF addressed the House. His remarks will appear hereafter in the Extensions of Remarks.)

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from California (Mr. FILNER) is recognized for 5 minutes.

(Mr. FILNER addressed the House. His remarks will appear hereafter in the Extensions of Remarks.)

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from North Carolina (Mr. JONES) is recognized for 5 minutes.

(Mr. JONES of North Carolina addressed the House. His remarks will appear hereafter in the Extensions of Remarks.)

#### ONE NATION UNDER GOD

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from Arizona (Mr. RENZI) is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. RENZI. Madam Speaker, on March 10, our children who attend public schools in the jurisdiction of the Ninth Circuit Court, including my home State of Arizona, were told not to start their day with the real Pledge of Allegiance. An absurd ruling made by the Ninth Circuit Court of Appeals last June held that the 1954 Federal act that added the words "under God" to the Pledge of Allegiance violated the Establishment Clause of the first amendment.

Madam Speaker, our great Nation rests upon the wisdom of our Founding Fathers. Our Founding Fathers created a Nation based upon spiritual beliefs, and yet judges continually misinterpret this founding principle by citing the Establishment Clause.

So what really is the Establishment Clause? Within our Constitution, the Establishment Clause was created to protect American citizens against religious persecution, so that the government would not impose one religion, the government religion, so that a government or king would not impose his own spiritual or personal beliefs.

The Establishment Clause was not created by our Founding Fathers to sterilize this Nation, to not allow this

Nation to utter the name of God. Just the opposite. The Constitution of the United States of America, written by our Founding Fathers, states this clearly in Article VII, in the year of our Lord one thousand seven hundred and eighty-seven.

So how ridiculous is it that the Ninth Circuit Court of Appeals can prohibit our teachers and children from reciting the Pledge of Allegiance in the public schools of nine western states, when the Constitution itself speaks of God?

Using this perverted logic, the Ninth Circuit Court of Appeals must now find our Constitution unconstitutional. This holding is a new low for our Nation, a low that will harm our children.

A good teacher, Mr. Byron Bolen, who teaches American government in Round Valley, Arizona, is concerned that we are undermining our national traditions and taking focus away from our Founding Fathers by not allowing the real Pledge in our classrooms. He believes this issue has become more an issue not of separation of church and state, but an issue that directly negates the patriotism that our children need to learn towards their country.

As a teacher in the First District of Arizona, Mr. Bolen asked me how far our courts will go to sterilize and remove God from our classroom and public places.

Our Founding Fathers created a Nation based on truth and morality and a love for democracy based upon a person's desire to conform to laws which they revere. Our good natural tendencies as human beings is to repel from evil and to be drawn towards goodness.

When hippie generation judges impose their own sterile secular beliefs on the American people, they are establishing their agnostic beliefs on Americans.

To go one step further, on February 28 the Court of Appeals in the Ninth Circuit refused numerous requests by our President, the Congress and local school districts to overturn their prior decision.

Twice now this court has ruled that reciting the real Pledge of Allegiance is unconstitutional. Yet in the House of Representatives we start our day with the real Pledge of Allegiance. Our institution writes and debates our laws only after we recite the real Pledge of Allegiance. We must act to allow our children to start their day the way we start our day here in the House.

Therefore, I call upon the Supreme Court to review this case, to review it expeditiously, and allow our children to honor our Nation by reciting the real Pledge, and let them start their school day the way we start our day.

#### MAKE WAR A LAST-CASE SCENARIO

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from Texas (Ms. JACKSON-LEE) is recognized for 5 minutes.